





Parry (bapt: Fredericts)

"Specimens of East Indian Plants
Drawing from nature"

Collection of 84. Oniginal Water-Colour
Drawings, mostly of Iropical Flowers
but includes 6 of Fish, 8 Birds

9 Animals and 9 Butterflies & Reptiles
etc:

a few of the plates are unfinished.

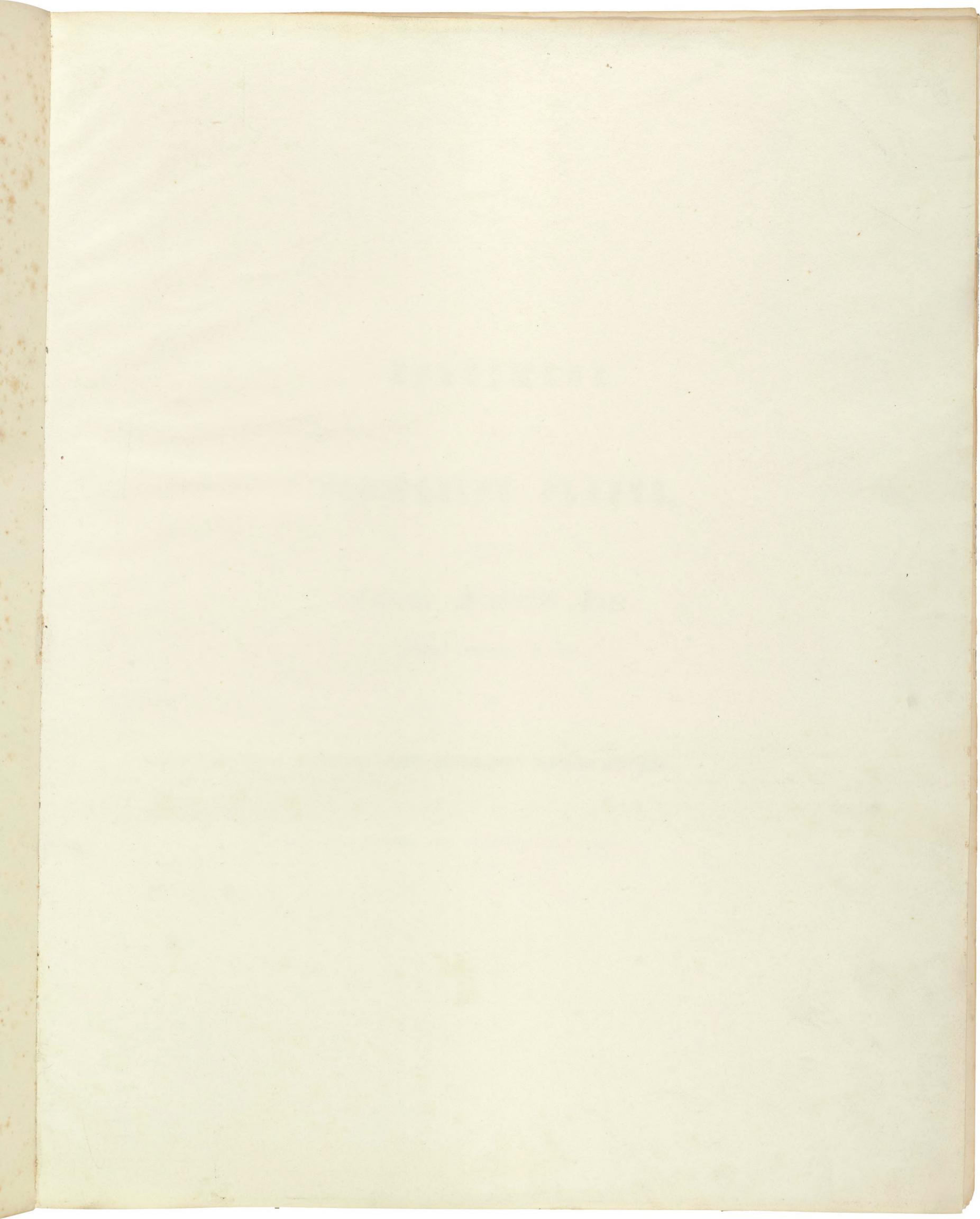
M.S. nomenclature by Dr. R. Wight, Coose
but ready for insertion into large easy

volume (c.1850)

Added are two original pencil
Drawings of Elephants drinking at
the River.

89 Drawings Altogether.





SPECIMENS

OF

TLOWERING PLANTS,

COLLECTED BY

Captain Fredenick Parn,

DURING A RESIDENCE IN INDIA,

AND

DRAWN FROM NATURE BY HINDOO ARTISTS

UNDER HIS SUPERINTENDENCE.





Cropandra













































Agati franchflora





Popris! Mighthana Thymelea





Mysalis prumana





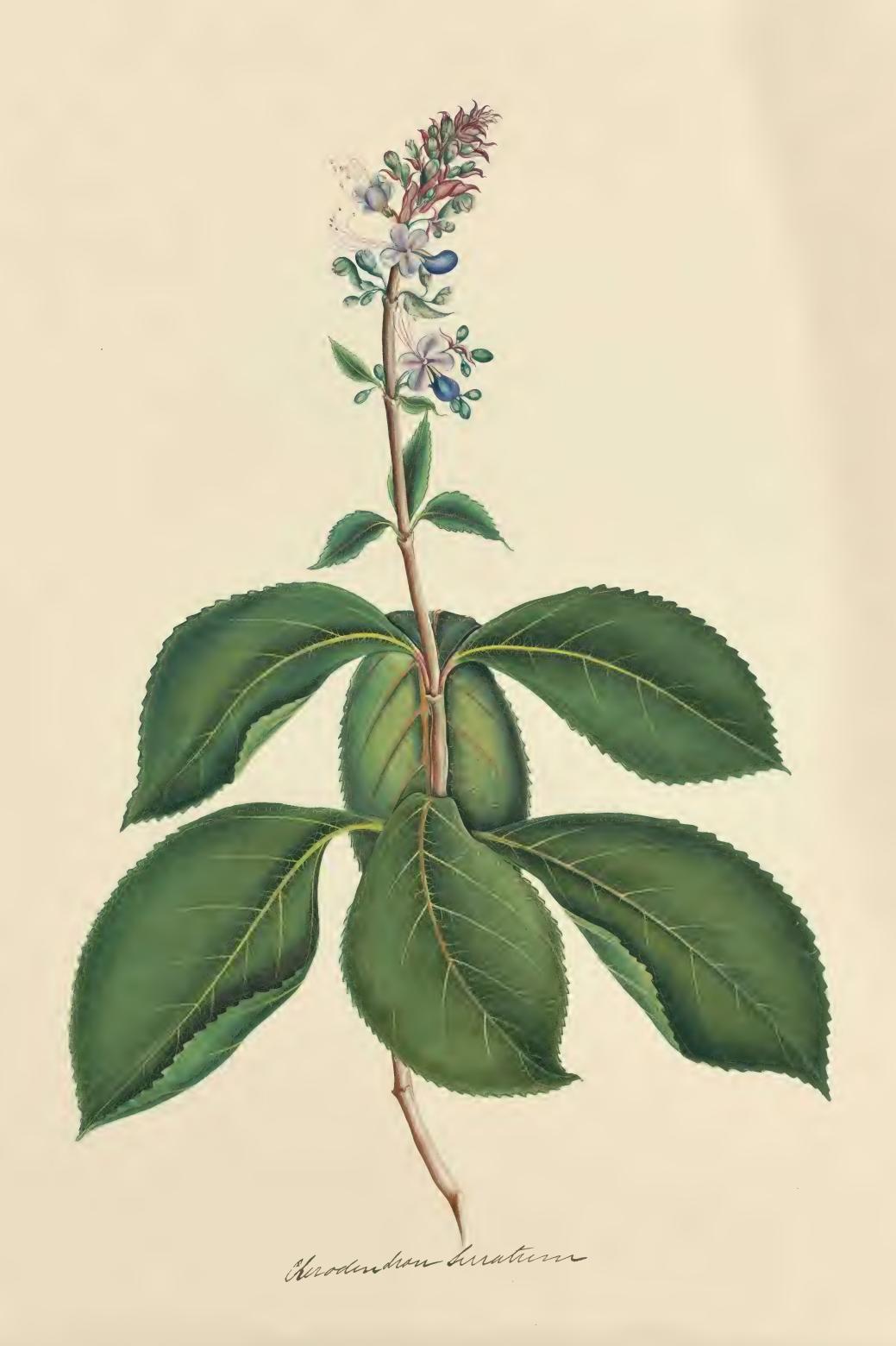














Viradendran Geratern





Butiris Issmant ti







Syclanthes arbor histis
Jasminece









Milera cuitatu.











Routedina





Munhapores



e die Marida Lucada









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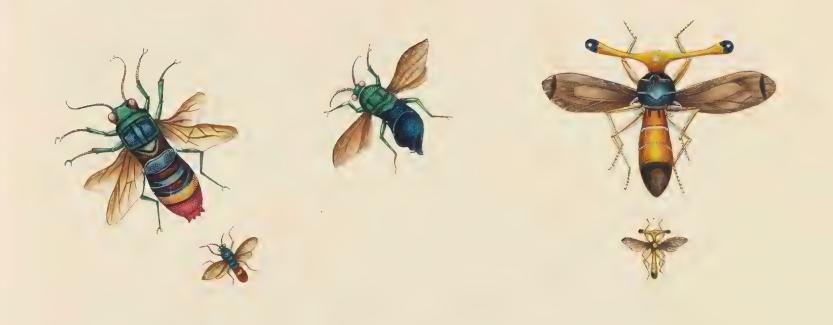






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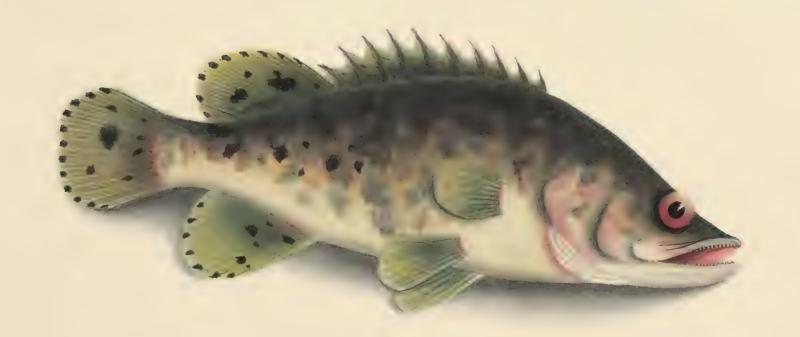








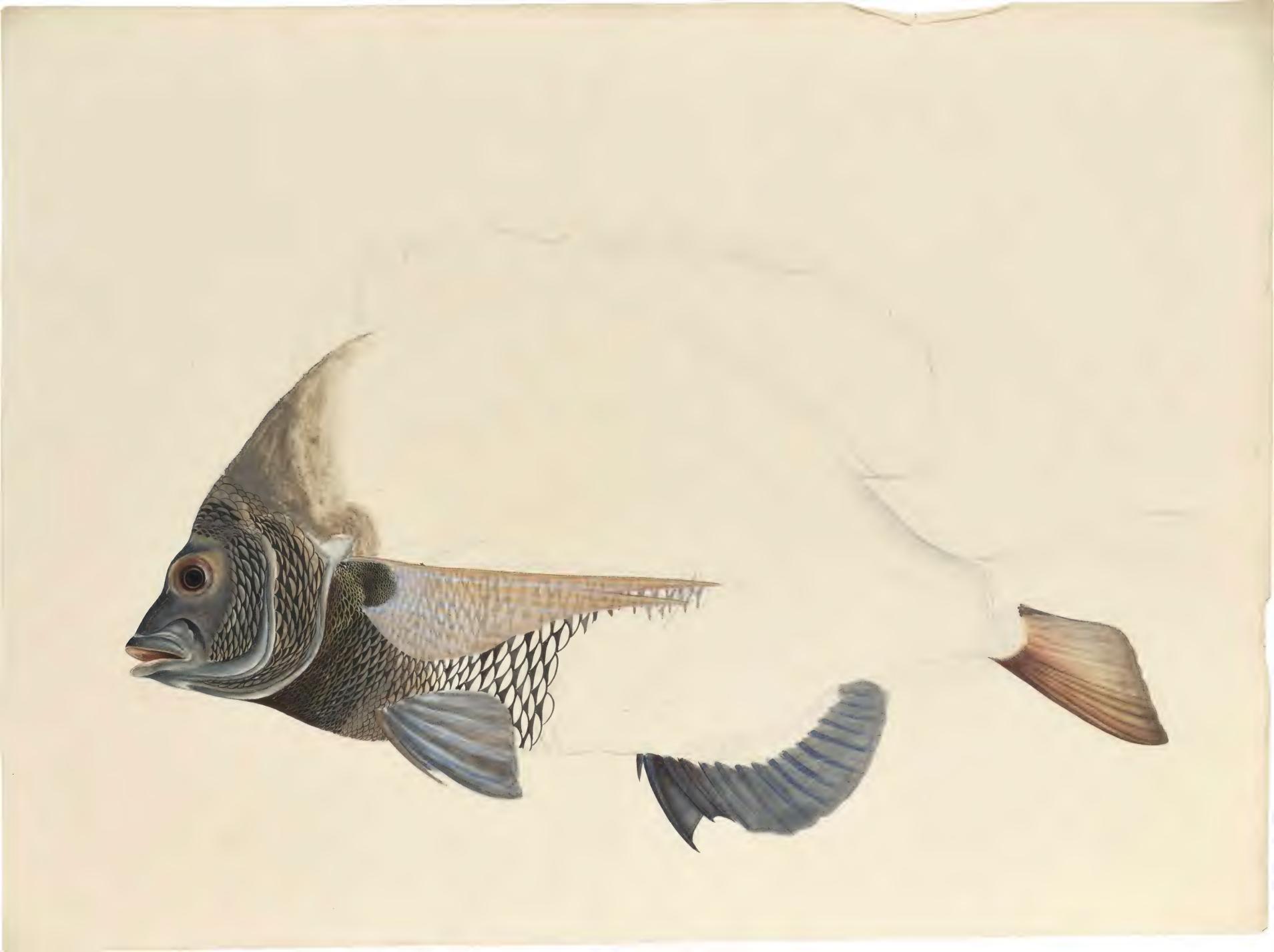


























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i.





































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AN AMATEUR'S COLLECTION

WATER COLOUR DRAWINGS

OF ORIENTAL PLANTS (CHIEFLY INDIGENOUS),

Gathered and Depicted, during a Residence of many years in the East Indies.

The Localities which produced the Specimens for this Collection are briefly given in an outline of the Nature and Grandeur of an Indian Primæval Forest.

-cc:QHC!JHJ:xxx-----

"The Earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is: The compass of the World and they that dwell therein."

The Works of the Lord are great: sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. Psalm cxi., verse 2.

A Collection of Drawings of East Indian Flowers and Flowering Plants, remarkable either for their beauty, rarity, medicinal or peculiar properties. Botanically delineated (structure, fructification and sections of the seed vessels excepted) by five Hindoo and Mahomedan "Moochees" (Native Artists,) of Trichinopoly, Madras Presidency, under the immediate superintendance of Captain Frederick Parr, by whom they were engaged for several years. They were this indefatigable attendants upon nearly all his perambulations. Living under canvas in their company for weeks and months together, exploring in search of novelties the Country Far and Wide, it is but natural to suppose that an enthusiasm would be created, only to be understood by those who have, in the pursuit of a favorite hobby, ascended wild mountainous tracts, traversed and searched the plains, or penetrated into the deep recesses of the Jungles (Forests) remote from all cultivation and habitations of man. There, buried in obscurity, exists as of old, in the days of the Creation, the spontaneous growth of

"Primoval Woods and Forests vast and rude,
Where reigns a deep, unbroken solitude,
Eternal Teaks * who've wider stretched their arms,
And deeper struck their roots amid the storms,"

Storms, which are so prevalent and violent at the Season of the Monsoon, and for awhile rage and reign in awful majesty, in the extensive and in many portions quite impenetrable forests, called the "Great Wynaud Jungle" and the Malabar or "Western Ghauts," and their boisterous influence pervading over the whole of the sea-beaten coast of the Malabar and Canara side of India. The great Humboldt when he crossed the Andes, passed through one of these primeval Forests, which took him thirteen days to traverse, during all which time not the slightest trace of man was to be seen. The author of this sketch when with his Regiment on the picturesque route from Cannanore to Trichinopoly (changing quarters), was encamped for several days in this remarkable Jungle. The tents pitched with difficulty under luxuriant trees in the wildest scenes imaginable; the dense masses of foliage forming canopies so impervious, that the light of Heaven could barely penetrate. In some instances so thick and obstinate proved the brushwood for the party of Pioneers to clear away, that it was impossible to select ground to form anything like a perfect Encampment. The exclusion of more than half the tents was the consequence, to the utter discomfiture of both Officers and men, exposed as we were to the prejudicial nocturnal exhalations arising from decayed vegetation;—the drenching dews,—and intensity of the cold as daybreak approached. A retrospective glance at the above quotation suggests the following lines of Byron, who takes a distinct and correct, yet different view of Solitude, to mankind in general, and therefore thinks it "apropos" to give the Poet's exquisite delineation on the same in Childe Harold, Canto II., Verse xxv. and xxvi. The charming quietude wove into these captivating lines, coincide so admirably with his own sensations during his solitary wanderings, that he cannot refrain from giving them a place here.

To sit on rocks, to muse o'er flood and fell,

To slowly trace the forest's shady scene,

Where things that own not man's dominion dwell,

And mortal foot hath ne'er or rarely been;

To climb the trackless mountain all unseen,

With the wild flock that never needs a fold;

Alone o'er steeps and foaming falls to lean:

This is not Solitude; 'tis but to hold

Converse with Nature's charms and view her stores unroll'd.

But 'midst the crowd, the hum, the shock of men,
To hear, to see, to feel, and to possess,
And roam along, the world's tired denizen,
With none who bless us, none whom we can bless,
Minions of splendour shrinking from distress!
None that with kindred consciousness endued,
If we were not, would seem to smile the less
Of all that flatter'd, follow'd, sought, and sued;
This is to be alone; this, this is solitude!

More than one object was embraced by these delightful, and ever memorable, Romantic Tours. First, the collecting of specimens in Natural History. Secondly, the Sport afforded to the Rifle, Rod and Gun. And lastly, the augmenting the series of Drawings now under notice. Furthermore, briefly be it observed, that when the writer's military duties engaged him at the Head Quarters of his Regiment, and as he was desirous to possess as many varieties as possible of the Floral Kingdom, with a due attention to quality rather than quantity, he had in numerous instances, samples of Plants brought from other districts into Cantonments, much pains being required to keep them alive during the time necessary for traversing a great distance.

It is not too much to say, that the result has realized his most sanguine expectations, and with regard to the faithfulness of the representations, most of the Drawings would be found most true to Nature, could the originals be again placed beside them; nor does their merit rest here, for they not unfrequently develope a minuteness and delicacy of colouring, which rivals the finish and skill of our best European Artists in Miniature Painting.

The Nomenclature will be found under every figure on the different sheets in the Autography of Robert Wight, M.D., F.L.S., &c., Surgeon on the Honble. East India Company's Madras Establishment, Author of the "Prodromus Floræ Peninsulæ Indiæ," "Icones Plantarum Indiæ Orientalis," "Filices Asiaticæ Rariores," and other Oriental Botanical Works, some published in folio, and most splendidly illustrated, associated with the names of Arnott, Finlayson, Hamilton Roxburgh, Royle, and Wallich, our most celebrated Writers in the inexhaustible field of Botany, that the vast Continent of Hindostan commands. Notwithstanding the many strenuous researches and corresponding discoveries that have been made during recent years, the interesting study of Botany is for that part of the world, but very superficially understood. An ample Catalogue of undiscovered plants, still lies in embryo for future aspirants to Botanical Fame. Some of the Specimens portrayed were previously brought to light by Doctor Wight, and a few, quite unknown to him, proved new to science, these for a time baffled the ingenuity of this clever Botanist either in assigning a name, or designating the species. It was highly amusing to witness the excessive rapture he was sometimes thrown into, when he detected in this Collection a plant of his own discovery.

To the real Botanical Lover of Flowers, and especially to one who has sojourned in those climes, a few further observations with respect to their localities, &c. may not prove unacceptable. Three pretty little flowers hitherto unnoticed, were accidentally found by the collector of these Illustrations during sundry sporting excursions amongst the "Neilgherry's," or "Blue Mountains of Coimbetoor," (from whence several other specimens were obtained for his collection,) they reaching an average altitude of 7500 feet above the level of the Sea, the apex of "Dodapett." the crowning peak in the cluster, soaring to an elevation of 1400 feet beyond the loftiest of its compeers, and the whole covered to their very summits with pendent woods, their botanical nature varying at divers altitudes, which vegetate quite a distinct order or class of plants in the intermediate spaces that lie between the alternate lines of demarcation. It is perhaps, superfluous here to remark, that these Jungles also are to be found rife with life in animated nature. Besides the botanical hidden treasures of these mountains, an infinity of unknown species, evidently exist in the vicinity of, and on the slopes and summits of the "Koondahs," the "Pulneys," the "Paulghaut," and other ranges of hills, &c., (which likewise yielded him Plants more or less,) to say nothing of the Presidencies of Bengal and Bombay, and further North, the sublime and lofty awe-striking Himalayah Range with all its multitudinous ramifications. Marvellous too, are the innumerable varieties of the vegetable Kingdom in those dense Forest Regions, the "Great Wynaud Jungle," (where numbers of samples were gathered,) this Jungle alone, takes in an extensive tract above the Western Ghauts, bordering upon the fertile province of Malabar for upwards of seventy miles, and varying from thirty to forty in breadth, where vegetation, unadorned by art and unaided by culture, may be seen in the full luxuriance of nature, from the gigantic teak tree to the minutest flower that adorns the Jungle. It is indeed, the very garden of nature, affording the widest scope for botanical research. Here flourishes the graceful and tapering bamboo, clustered in impenetrable thickets; here the delicate moimosa of unnumbered hues---the pine-apple and strawberry, amongst other fruits are likewise of spontaneous growth—and the stately Palm may also be met with in all its varieties. It is here the Zoologist may find subject for years of research, since the very decay of vegetation produces that wonderful connecting link between the vegetable and the animal kingdoms, the Zoophyte, from which may be traced in regular gradation, even up to the largest order of quadrupeds a variety of animals which probably cannot be surpassed in the world. Quitting the "Wynaud"—the Jungles (under other appellations) continue less of the magnificent forest character to the South; but retaining all their characteristic wildness, beauty and magnitude as they stretch themselves in a Northerly direction into Canara and other districts, skirting the base and clothing the tops of many minor ranges of hills, besides what have already been mentioned the Malabar or "Great Western Ghauts," which likewise deserve some particular relation here, being an irregular chain of mountains, varying in altitude to a maximum, in some instances upwards of 4500 feet above the level of the sea which commence below Bombay contiguous to the Mahabuleshwur Hills and the Mahratta Country in the North, and gradually decreasing in altitude eventually run themselves out at the extremity of the Paulghautcherry and Coimbetoor districts, adjoining those of Travancore and Tinnevilly, a considerable distance above Cape Comorin in the South, ("the Land's End" of India,) and which by their tortuous and rugged, though seldom interrupted Line, spread over an immense tract of undulating country several hundred miles in extent, and for the most part completely filled in with enormous Jungles, of the finest Timber, † affording perfect security to the retiring instinct of Elephants. Bison, Rhinoceros, Tigers, Panthers, Cheetahs, Leopards, Elk, Great Rusa Deer, Sambre, Black or Hill Deer, Spotted Axis, Ibex, Muntjak or Jungle Sheep, Wild Boar, and all the remaining unmentioned Fauna, which comprises a much more extensive list of the wild Mammalia of these parts than is to be found in any other locality of the entire Continent of India. Nor are these Forests by any means deficient in other animal productions, for they teem with life in the several departments of Ornithology, Erpetology and Entomology, though unquestionably much less in Ichthiology, as regards inland waters, ‡ than in any other branch of Natural History. In all of which, though to a much less extent the Collector has had portraits taken from life. In the present notice, his exclusive attention is directed to the Plants, insignificant though the number which have come under his observation when compared to the myriads in the mazy depths of the tangled Jungles, which open their blossoms and emit their fragrance to no Human Being, thus forcibly bearing out the truth of the well known citation, as regards one of the principal, if not the most interesting branches of Natural History, that,

"MANY A FLOWER IS BORN TO BLUSH UNSEEN."

Il collection of chavings matire listet, the normendature greated Blanit Might m.) Mon Fat. S. et The Harr. melan Hants etc.

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- cocycle Colors

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An experience of upwards of forty years has proved their uninterrupted salubrity, and the restored healths and blooming complexions of our Indian invalids, who have gone there, bear evident testimony to the truth of Humboldt's theory, viz. :- "There is a serenity existing on all table lands between the tropics, that are of considerable elevation." This elevation is laid down at 3,500 feet, and these mountains more than doubly exceed that standard, reaching an average altitude of near 8,000 feet above the level of the Sea. The apex of "Dodabetta," from "Doda" (great,) and "Betta" a (mountain,) in the ('arnatica language, the crowning peak of this table-land cluster, soaring to an elevation of 8,922 feet, being very little over many of its lofty compeers. Their situation is in Latitude about 11.º12." North, Longitude 76.º 30." East, and are, as it were, isolated from the neighbouring mountains by the two great and superb Passes, the Guzzulhutty on the north, and the Paulghautcherry on the south. Their length forty miles from East to West, and their breadth from fifteen to twenty-five from North to South. The Thermometer in the shade is often below 35 degrees, scarcely ever above 70 of Fahrenheit, and its variations between night and day, less than at any other place in the world with which it has yet been compared. A hoar frost often covers the hills, and a thin coat of ice the still waters. The chief characteristics of the central scenery around "Ootacamund," are the smooth grassy appearance of the hills, and the singular regularity and clumping of the Woods, which generally would lead the stranger to believe that the hand of man had been busy in their planting, instead of having thus grown and flourished in all the wild exuberance, yet most beautiful order of Nature. The Englishman is highly gratified, on the first ascent of these mountains, at the sight of the Fern, the Dog-rose, the Blackberry, and Strawberry, which greet him at every step; and when first the Blackbird and Thrush starts before him, with their well-remembered warbles, the thrill of delight he experiences can only be appreciated by those who have felt and loved such trifles in their youth, and have bade adieu to them not only for years, but perhaps for ever. The "Neilgherries" are covered from their base to their very summits with pendent woods, their botanical nature varying at divers altitudes, and vegetating quite a distinct order or class of plants in the spaces that lie between the alternate lines of demarcation. It is perhaps, superfluous here to remark, that these Jungles are also to be found rife with life in animated nature. Besides the botanical hidden treasures of these mountains, an infinity of unknown species, evidently exist in the vicinity of, and on the slopes and summits of the "Koondahs," the "Tambacherry," the "Pulneys," and other ranges of hills, &c., (which likewise yielded him I lants more or less,) to say nothing of the Presidencies of Bombay and Bengal, Agra, and further North, the sublime and lofty awe-striking Himalayah Range, with all its multitudinous ramifications.

Marvellous too, are the innumerable varieties of the vegetable Kingdom in those dense Forest Regions, the "Great Wynaud Jungle," where numbers of samples were gathered.

Out of the many extensive Forests which abound in the Western side of India, the "Great Wynaud Jungle" alone, deserves some particular relation, it is familiarly known to Civilian and Officer Sportsmen quartered within its reach;—indeed, of the many, whose lot it has been to pass the sunshine of their days under the fierce beams of a Madras sky, who, has not heard of the "Wynaud," even if they have not visited it, that considerable tract above the Western Ghauts, bordering upon the fertile province of Malabar for upwards of seventy miles, and varying from thirty to forty in breadth, where vegetation, unadorned by art, and unaided by culture, may be seen in the full luxuriance of nature, from the gigantic teak tree, to the minutest flower that adorns the Jungle. It is indeed, the very garden of nature, affording the widest scope for botanical research. Here flourishes the graceful and tapering bamboo, clustered in impenetrable thickets, here the delicate moimosa of unnumbered hues, the pine-apple and strawberry, amongst other fruits, are likewise of spontaneous growth, and the stately Palm may also be met with in all its varieties. It is here the Zoologist may find subject for years of research, since the very decay of vegetation produces that wonderful connecting link between the vegetable, and the animal kingdoms, the Zoophyte, from which may be traced in regular gradation, even up to the largest order of quadrupeds, a variety of animals which probably cannot be surpassed in the world.

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In the mountainous tracts above the Deccan and the Concan, lying between Poona and Sattara, contiguous to, and in some measure, actually forming part of these Ghauts, lie the Mahabuleshwur Hills, a Sanatarium, as well as a botanical place of resort, better known to the inhabitants in the Presidency of Bombay. They take their name from the small Brahmin village of Mahabuleshwur, being derived from the three Mahratta words Maha, Bul, and Eeshwur, signifying "the God of great power." Their general elevation about 4600 feet above the level of the sea, the highest summit attains to an altitude of near 4800 feet. This Table-land varies in breadth from eight to fifteen miles, and its greatest length from North-East to South-West, extends diagonally seventeen miles, and forms the highest ground between the Neilgherry and Himalayah Mountains. Annual mean temperature averages 65 Fahrenheit, and the greatest degree of cold in the open air, 45. They were discovered in 1823. Latitude 17° 56" North. Longitude 73° 30" East. The Range, as it wends its way to the Southward, successively extends over a great portion of several large Districts, passing opposite in succession, the following more noted places on the Coast, viz., Mandurbar, near the Taptee River, Surat, near the mouth of the same; Damaun, a Portuguese Settlement, Bombay, Severndroog, Vingorla, Goa, a Portuguese Settlement, Mangalore, Cannanore, Tellicherry, Mahee, a French Settlement, Calicut, Ponany, opposite the Gap of Paulghautcherry, Cochin, Alleppee, Quilon, Anjengo, Trivandrum, Nagercoil, a village. It meets with no interruption, until it arrives at the extremity of the Coimbetoor Districts. Here then, we have an abrupt termination, a most curious, and novel feature for the notice of the Geologist, as there is an intervening space of flat country, for a very few miles, and then the Range, as abruptly recommences. This strange opening between the Ghauts goes by the familiar name of "Paul's Gap," being an abbreviation of the name of a Town, situated at the entrance on the Land-side. Leaving the Ghauts on the Concan, Malabar and Canara side behind, the disconnected and comparatively small portion of the remaining part of the Range, now penetrates through the provinces of Travancore, Cochin, and Tinnevilly, with a gradual and almost imperceptible decrease of altitude, and finally run themselves out at Nagercoil, an inconsiderable place at the foot of the Hills, and close adjoining the extreme point of the Continent, "Cape Comorin," the "Land's End" of India. The entire length of this Range, in a direct line from North to South, is upwards of 14 degrees, or near 900 miles, but most probably near double that distance, if its numerous tortuous windings could be carefully measured. The greater portion of these Mountains, and the recesses between them, are completely filled in with enormous Jungles of the finest Timber, yielding the Teak, Palan, Rosewood, Saul or Sal, Jamboo, Blackwood, Jack, Cedar, Ebony, Cypress, Oodoogoo, Thengan, Ab Eney, Beimboo, Kuneenee, Assama, Chatiyan, Jumbeh, Red Sanders, Iron Wood, Tiger Wood, Snake Wood, Jarroll, Gomar, Acacia, Calamander, Tamarind, Blue Gum, Poddyvoga, Masoodah, Sandal, Neer-cadumbar-marum, Stringy Bark, Monkeypot, Satin Wood, &c., &c., besides countless varieties of Trees of inferior size. They afford perfect security to the retiring instinct of Elephants, Bison, Rhinoceros, Tigers, Panthers, Cheetahs, Leopards, Elk, Great Rusa Deer, Sambre, Black or Hill Deer, Spotted Axis, Ibex, Muntjak or Jungle Sheep, Hyænas, Wild Dogs and Boars, and all the remaining unmentioned "Fauna," which comprises a much more extensive list of the wild Mammalia of these parts, than is to be found in any other locality of the entire Continent of India. Nor are these Forests by any means deficient in other animal productions, for they teem with life in the several departments of Ornithology, Erpetology and Entomology, though unquestionably much less in Ichthiology, as regards inland waters, than in any other branch of Natural History, (the Fish in the Indian Seas being innumerable, the exception applies only to the Rivers and Lakes,) in all of which, though to a much less extent, the Collector has had portraits taken from life. 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"MANY A FLOWER IS BORN TO BLUSH UNSEEN."

ORIENTAL FLOWER SHOW,

The Flowers were gathered and depicted, during a Residence of many Years in the East Indies.

An Amateur's Exhibition in aid of the Subscriptions for re-erecting (in fac-simile of the original) the very beautiful Tower of St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton.

Hitherto strictly confined to Private View, now for the first time made Public.

A DIFFERENT VARIETY WILL BE SHEWN EVERY DAY UNTIL THE EXHIBITION CLOSES.

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The Localities which produced the Specimens for this Collection are given in a Description of the Nature and Grandeur of an Indian Primæval Forest, and of the Extent and Magnitude of the Mountains.

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"The Earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is: The compass of the World and they that dwell therein."

The Works of the Lord are great: sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. Psalm cxi., verse 2.

A Collection of Drawings of East Indian Flowers and Flowering Plants, remarkable either for their beauty, rarity, medicinal or peculiar properties. Botanically delineated, (structure, fructification, and sections of the seed vessels excepted,) by five Hindoo and Mahomedan "Moochees," (Native Artists,) of Trichinopoly, Madras Presidency, under the immediate superintendance of Capt. Fred. Parr, by whom they were engaged for several years. They were his indefatigable attendants upon nearly all his perambulations. Living under canvas in their company for weeks and months together, exploring in search of novelties, the Country, Far and Wide, it is but natural to suppose that an enthusiasm would be created, only to be understood by those who have, in the pursuit of a favorite hobby, ascended wild mountainous tracts, traversed and searched the plains, or penetrated into the deep recesses of the Jungles or Forests, remote from all cultivation and habitations of man. There, buried in obscurity, exists as of old, in the days of the Creation, the spontaneous growth of

"Primæval Woods and Forests vast and rude,
Where reigns a deep, unbroken solitude,
Eternal Teaks * who've wider stretched their arms,
And deeper struck their roots amid the storms,"

"Storms," which are so prevalent and violent at the Season of the South West Monsoon, accompanied by thunder and lightning of that terrific nature, which is never exp-rienced in England, and for awhile rage and reign in awful majesty, in the extensive, and in many portions quite impenetrable forests, called the "Great Wynaud Jungle" and the Malabar or "Western Ghauts," and their boisterous influence pervading over the whole of the sea-beaten coast of the Malabar and Canara side of India. The great Humboldt, when he crossed the Andes, passed through one of these primæval Forests, which took him thirteen days to traverse, during all which time, not the slightest trace of man was to be seen. The author of this sketch, when with his Regiment on the picturesque route from Cannanore to Trichinopoly, (changing quarters,) was encamped for several days in this remarkable Jungle. The tents pitched with difficulty, under luxuriant trees, in the wildest scenes imaginable; the dense masses of foliage forming canopies so impervious, that the light of Heaven could barely penetrate. In some instances so thick and obstinate proved the brushwood for the party of Pioneers to clear away, that it was impossible to adapt the ground to form anything like a perfect Encampment. The exclusion of more than half the tents was the consequence, to the utter discomfiture of both Officers and men, exposed as a great many of them were to the prejudicial nocturnal exhalations arising from decayed vegetation,—the drenching dews,—and intensity of the cold as daybreak approached. A retrospective glance at the above quotation suggests the following lines of Byron, who takes a distinct and correct, yet different view of Solitude, to mankind in general, and therefore the writer thinks it "appropas" to give the Poet's exquisite delineation on the same, in Childe Harold, Canto II., Verse xxv. and xxvi. The charming quietude wove into these captivating lines coincide so admirably with his own sensations duving his solitary wanderings, that he cannot ref

To sit on rocks, to muse o'er flood and fell,
To slowly trace the forest's shady scene,
Where things that own not man's dominion dwell,
And mortal foot hath ne'er or revely been;
To climb the trackless mount in all unseen,
With the wild flock that never needs a fold;
Alone o'er steeps and foaming falls to lean:
This is not Solitude; 'dis but to hold
Converse with Nature's charms and view her stores unroll'd.

But 'midst the crowd, the hum, the shock of men,
To hear, to see, to feel, and to possess,
And roam along, the world's tired denizen,
With none who bless us, none whom we can bless,
Minions of splendour shinking from distress!
None that with kindred consciousness endued,
If we were not, would seem to smile the less
Of all that flatter'd, follow'd, sought, and sued;
This is to be alone; this, this is solitude!!!

More than one object was embraced by these delightful, and ever memorable, Romantic Tours. First, the collecting of specimens in Natural History. Secondly, the Sport afforded to the Rifle, Rod and Gun. And lastly, the augmenting the series of Drawings now under notice. Furthermore, briefly be it observed, that when the writer's military duties engaged him at the Head Quarters of his Regiment, and as he was desirous to possess as many varieties as possible of the Floral Kingdom, with a due attention to quality, rather than quantity, he had in numerous instances, samples of Plants brought from other districts into Cantonments, much pains being required to keep them alive during the time necessary for travelsing a great distance.

It is not too much to say, that the result has realized his most sanguine expectations, and with regard to the faithfulness of the representations, most of the Drawings would be found true to Nature, could the originals be again placed beside them; not does their merit test here, for they not unfrequently develope a minuteness and delicacy of colouring, which rivals the finish and skill of our best European Artists in Miniature Painting.

The Nomenclature will be found under every figure, on the different sheets in the Autography of Robert Wight, M.D., F.L.S., &c., Surgeon on the Honble. East India Company's Madras Establishment, Author of the "Prodromus Floræ Peninsulæ Indiæ," "Icones Plantarum Indiæ Orientalis," "Filices Asiaticæ Rario es," and other Oriental Botanical Works, some published in folio, and most splendidly illustrated, associated with the names of Acnott, Finlayson, Hamilton Roxburgh, Royle, Wallich, Ainslie, Fleming, and Piddington, our most celebrated Writers in the inexhaustible field of Botany, that the vast Continent of Hindostan commands. Notwithstanding the many streuuous researches, and corresponding discoveries, that have been made during recent years, the interesting study of Botany is for that part of the world, but very superficially understood. An ample Catalogue of undiscovered plants, still lies in embryo for future aspirants to Botanical Fame. Some of the Specimens portrayed, were previously brought to light by Doctor Wight, and a few, quite unknown to him, proved new to science, these for a time baffled the ingenuity of this clever Botanist, either in assigning a name, or designating the species. It was highly amusing to witness the excessive rapture into which he was sometimes thrown, when he detected in this Collection, a plant of his own discovery.

The real Botanical Lover of Flowers, and especially to one who has sojouned in those climes, a few further observations with respect to their local ties, &c., may not prove unacceptable. Three precy little flowers hisherto unnoticed, were accidentally found by the collector of these Illustrations, duing study sporting excursions amongst the "Neilgherrys," or "Blue Mountains of Coimbetoor," from whence several other specimens were obtained for his collection. The Neilgherries merit a much further notice than can possibly be given here. These beautiful Blue Mountains, at their name implies,—from "Neil" (Blue) and "Gherry" (Mountain),—had long excited the admiring gaze of each European who had passed within view of their majestic by may have do, far above all other of that grand and extensive range of mountains,—of which they form a detached part,—called the "Great Western Ghauts," and their smooth and verdant tops had long tempted the adventurer's tread. They were quite unknown except by sight, but were oftentimes recognised by mariners as the first object on shore, their lofty peaks peering above the clouds, being conspicuous at Sea, to a very great distance. Their discovery was accidentally made by a party of natives from Coimbetoor, in January, 1819, who ascended in search of a fugitive, and thereby became acquainted with their beauty, as well as with their salubrity. They were subsequently explored, and found more than to realize all the expectations of the enterprising Englishmen who reached their summits, and breathed an air so pure, cool, and elastic, that it did not require the contrast with the burning plain, from which they had just ascended, to convince them of their exhilirating, beneficial and strengthening influence, and which time ultimately has so happily proved to be completely at variance with the baneful effects of nearly all the other hilly places of India. Hough, remarks in an account of the Neilgherries "that England, our own dear native clime (so excolled and loved in India,) must yield in

An experience of upwards of forty years has proved their uninterrupted salubrity, and the restored healths and blooming complexions of our Indian invalids, who have gone there, bear evident testimony to the truth of Humboldt's theory, viz.:—'There is a serenity existing on all table lands between the tropics, that are of considerable elevation.' This clevation is laid down at 3,500 feet, and these mountains more than doubly exceed that standard, reaching an average altitude of near 8,000 feet above the level of the Sea. The apex of "Dodabetta," from "Doda" (great,) and "Betta" a (mountain,) in the Carnatica language, the crowning peak of this table-land cluster, soariing to an elevation of 8,922 feet, being very little over many of its 10fty compers. Their situation is in Latitude about 11.0 12." North, Longitude 76.0 30." East, and are, as it were, isolated from the neighbouring mountains by the two great and superb Passes, the Guzzulhutty on the north, and the Paulghautcherry on the south. Their length forty miles from East to West, and their breadth from fifteen to twenty-five from North to South. The Thermoneter in the shade is often below 35 degrees, scarcely ever above 70 of Fahrenheit, and its variations between night and day, less than at any other place in the world with which it has yet been compared. A hoar frost often covers the bills, and a thin coat of ice the still waters. The chief characteristics of the central scenery around "Ootacamund," are the smooth grassy appearance of the bills, and the singular regularity and clumping of the Woods, which generally would lead the stranger to believe that the hand of man had been busy in their planting, instead of having thus grown and flourished in all the wild exuberance, yet most beautiful order of Nature. The Englishman is highly gratified, on the first ascen of these mountains, at the sight of the Fern, the Dog-rose, the Blackberry, and Strawberry, which greet him at every step; and when first the Blackbird and Thrush starts before him, with their we

Marvellous too, are the innumerable varieties of the vegetable Kingdom in those dense Forest Regions, the "Great Wynaud Jungle," where numbers of samples were gathered.

Out of the many extensive Forests which abound in the Western side of India, the "Great Wynaud Jungle" alone, deserves some particular relation, it is familiarly known to Civilian and Officer Sportsmen quartered within its reach;—indeed, of the many, whose lot it has been to pass the sunshine of their days under the fierce beams of a Madras sky, who, has not heard of the "Wynaud," even if they have not visited it, that considerable tract above the Western Ghauts, bordering upon the fertile province of Malabar for upwards of seventy miles, and varying from thirty to forty in breadth, where vegetation, unadorned by art, and unaided by culture, may be seen in the full luxuriance of nature, from the gigantic teak tree, to the minutest flower that adorns the Jungle. It is indeed, the very garden of nature, affording the widest scope for botanical research. Here flourishes the graceful and tapering bamboo, clustered in impenetrable thickets, here the delicate moimosa of unnumbered hues, the pine-apple and strawberry, amongst other fruits, are likewise of spontaneous growth, and the stately Palm may also be met with in all its varieties. It is here the Zoologist may find subject for years of research, since the very decay of vegetation produces that wonderful connecting link between the vegetable, and the animal kingdoms, the Zoophyte, from which may be traced in regular gradation, even up to the largest order of quadrupeds, a variety of animals which probably cannot be surpassed in the world.

Quitting the "Wynaud,"—the Jungles, under other appellations, continue, less of the magnificent forest character to the South, but retaining all their characteristic wildness, beauty and magnitude, as they stretch themselves in a Northerly direction into Canara and other districts, skirting the base, and clothing the tops of many minor ranges of hills, besides the Malabar or "Great Western Ghauts," which have already been mentioned, but which likewise claim some particular relation, being an irregular chain of mountains, varying in altitude to a maximum, in some instances upwards of 4500 feet above the level of the sea. They commence about two degrees and a quarter North of Bombay, in the Province of Candeish, near the South bank of the Taptee river, at no great distance from Surat, running nearly parallel with the Coast, and eventually reaching the end of the Promontory, Cape Comorin in the South. In the mountainous tracts above the Deccan and the Concan, lying between Poona and Sattara, contiguous to, and in some measure, actually forming part of these Ghauts, lie the Mahabuleshwur Hills, a Sanatarium, as well as a botanical place of resort, better known to the inhabitants in the Presidency of Bombay. They take their name from the small Brahmin village of Mahabuleshwur, being derived from the three Mahratta words Maha, Bul, and Eeshwur, signifying "the God of great power." Their general elevation about 4600 feet above the level of the sea, the highest summit attains to an altitude of near 4800 feet. This Table-land varies in breadth from eight to fifteen miles, and its greatest length from North-East to South-West, extends diagonally seventeen miles, and forms the highest ground between the Neilgherry and Himalayah Mountains. Annual mean temperature averages 65 Fahrenheit, and the greatest degree of cold in the open air, 45. They were discovered in 1823. Latitude 17° 56" North. Longitude 73° 30" East. The Range, as it wends its way to the Southward, successively extends over a great portion of several large Districts, passing opposite in succession, the following more noted places on the Coast, viz., Mandurbar, near the Taptee River, Surat, near the mouth of the same; Damaun, a Portuguese Settlement, Bombay, Severndroog, Vingorla, Goa, a Portuguese Settlement, Mangalore, Cannanore, Tellicherry, Mahee, a French Settlement, Calicut, Ponany, opposite the Gap of Paulghautcherry, Cochin, Alleppee, Quilon, Anjengo, Trivandrum, Nagercoil, a village. It meets with no interruption, until it arrives at the extremity of the Coimbetoor Districts. Here then, we have an abrupt termination, a most curious, and novel feature for the notice of the Geologist, as there is an intervening space of flat country, for a very few miles, and then the Range, as abruptly recommences. This strange opening between the Ghauts goes by the familiar name of "Paul's Gap," being an abbreviation of the name of a Town, situated at the entrance on the Land-side. Leaving the Ghauts on the Concan, Malabar and Canara side behind, the disconnected and comparatively small portion of the remaining part of the Range, now penetrates through the provinces of Travancore, Cochin, and Tinnevilly, with a gradual and almost imperceptible decrease of altitude, and finally run themselves out at Nagercoil, an inconsiderable place at the foot of the Hills, and close adjoining the extreme point of the Continent, "Cape Comorin," the "Land's End" of India. The entire length of this Range, in a direct line from North to South, is upwards of 14 degrees, or near 900 miles, but most probably near double that distance, if its numerous tortuous windings could be carefully measured. 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Passion Flower

being supposed to represent in the appendages of its flower the Passion of Jesus Christ.

Linn. Syst. Monodelphia Pentandria Nat. Order Passiflorea.

The beauty of Passifloras is well known; they are remarkable for the singular arrangement of the stamens and pistilum, upon a column surrounded by several lines of circumvallation, formed by as many rows of thread-like colored stamens which are popularly called rays. The fruit of several species of passion flower is filled with a pleasant acidulated pulp, on which account they are eaten as desert. It is not known that they possess any medical properties. The station of the Order is not settled, undoubledly it is very near Cucurbitacea.

This beautiful genus of climbers is partly herbaceous, but chiefly suffrukescent or woody, and all of them are exotics. Some species are odoriferous, of late a number of hybrid sorts have been raised, some of which are considered, says Loudon, more beautiful

than almost any natural species.

In the South American forests, on the eastern slopes of the Andes, are many variethis, which have not yet been introduced into Europe, such is the brilliant scarlet of which we have made drawings from nature, copying by the brightest tints we could employ the glowing intensity of colour, which no art can imitate, the size too of these flowers is much larger than any we have met with in Europe; often has the writer endeavoured to place one of these regal blofsoms in his hat, so that it might be conveyed to a place suitable for making a careful drawing, but the petals extended beyond the space in a hat's crown, and we have been content to select a minor blofsom because of the difficulty of carrying it without injury. There is also a pure milk white variety with golden glory of surpassing beauty.

The one represented is called, we believe Buonaparke, a compliment paid by that Flower worshipper. The enthusiastic, noble minded Josephine, to her Idol, the Emperor. The plant to which it clings is the Acacia Florrida, so named because of its long, numerous, and finely-pointed thorns of steel-like hardness; often has the writer had his flesh lacerated, and his garments literally torn off his back, when to escape some impending danger from serpents, beasts of prey, or worse than all, the lurking Ladrone, he has forced his steed into a thicket of those terrible, wound inflicting plants. The young Indians attach these thorns to their feather garnished, death fraught arrows, for the top of the finely tapered point is charged with the subtle poison they well know how to prepare, and so unering is the aim of these savages, that to miss the mark would almost occasion their loss of caste. Amongst the more peaceful Indians, the thorns of the Acacia are used as a substitute for nails and needles. The wound produced by the living thorn is exceedingly painful and difficult to heal.

The ancient American name of the Passion flower is Murucuia or Maracoc

thus the poet Show describes it

Beneath the covert of o'er arching trees, Bright Murucuia wood the cooling breeze. The passing Indian turns the admiring eye, Smit by the glories of her crimson dye, And stops in pleased attention to survey Her vivid leaves and variegated ray. But loftier thoughts the rising mind inspire, When warm devotion lends her holy fire. Haply amid the convent's virgin train, Bosom'd in shades beyond the western main, At rosy morn, or evening's silent hour, Some fair inthusiast views the sainted flower, When lo! to fair imagination's eye, Springs the sad scene of darken'd Calvary! The thorny crown the heavenly brows around, The scourging thorns, the galling cords that bound, And nails that pierced with agonizing wound; Sudden she lifts to heaven her ardent eye In silent gaze and solemn ecstacy; Then filled with timid hope and holy fear, Trops on the flower a consecrated tear!

Convolvulus

Convolvulus from convolvere, to entwine. Linn.Syst. Pentandria Monogynia, Nat. Order Convolvulaceæ.

Nearly the whole of these are twining plants, with shewy flowers expanding beneath the influence of bright sunshine. It few are shrubs, but the greater part are herbaceous, and very many annual. They are frequently also, weeds, which, from their creeping roots, are difficult to extirpate. All parts of the world produce them, from the cold regions of the north to the burning soil of the equator. Cuscuta is a singular parasite, wholly destitute of leaves. The root of many is filled with a milky acrid juice, which is very purgative; Scammony, jalap and some other drugs, are the produce of Convolvulaceae.

We shall not attempt a description of this numerous family; the variety represented, is that commonly known as Convolvulus Major, but in its most luxuriant state, even in the conservatories of our country, these lovely plants can scarcely be recognized as the flowers which with rainbow dyes, decorate the regions in which they most freely revel-twisting round the stems of the Palm-trees, Tamarinds, Treeferns and Acacias—creeping along the branches almost unseen, until finding their way to the unobstructed day light, there basking in the sun-letting their rich festoons fall gracefully, until the winds bear them to repose on the branches of some neighbouring tree garlanding the primeval forests with wreaths more gay than Poet or Painter could imagine

Montgomery in his charming Poem of the World before the Flood has many bruthful descriptions of tropical scenery, and it seemed to me that he who could write thus, -

"Up the tall trees, the slender creepers run, "To hang their silver blofsoms in the sun."

must have made his studies in some Tropical region, and having accasion to write to him, the enquiry was made, his reply was, he had indeed written this couplet with the actual scene before him, for in the beautiful woods around his own native Sheffield, he had observed the Floneyouckle and the white Convolvulus enwreath the loftiest trees and when raised to the needful light and air, give in the sunshine those manifestations of vigorous health and freedom which it is so joyous to behold.

The Bamboo round which the Convolvulus in Mexico delights to grow is the most stately of the arundinaceous plants, it is intersected by numerous joints and covered with a smoothly polished rind of flint like hardness, and which indeed contains silica. Houses are built and may be entirely furnished with the Bamboo; split and flattened, the exterior of a cottage is rapidly constructed of this material, the roof may also be covered with it, the leaves serving for thatch. Domestic utensils of all descriptions are formed of the hollow stem; ladders are fashioned of it with great celerity strong light and durable; bedoteads, buckets, chairs and tables require but little labour in their formation, for when green it is cut with ease; its long sharp pointed spines serve for nails, and if they do not in all cases prove a perfect substitute for them, thongs of leather or the stems of those cord like creeping plants which are always at hand serve to complete the workmanship.

In Malabar, the Bamboos are formed into arches, by training them while vegetating over an iron frame of the shape required; to support the canopy of Palanguins some Bamboos of lofty arch and large diameter are valued at five or six hundred rupees.

The Convent of San Francisco is remarkable for its spacious cloisters, a portion of which are curtained from the Patio or central square, with its foundain and garden of Orange Trees, Gigs, Pomegranates, Jasmine and Sen thousand flowers, all fragrant by a dense major of interwoven Convolvii apparently having grown there without culture, such however is not the case for the whole is the result of exquisite tasks, and elaborate braining. Wealth had decorated the Convent with lavioh hand haste had presided over it with costly presence - embroidered silks festioned the walls rich satins and brocade covered the couches- pictures by the most illustrious of the Old Masters graced the salons sich with carvid ebony, ivory, and sandal wood. Jems too, the deep green emeralds of Muze, and the pearls of Panama decorated relics more priceless than their jeweled shrines - the revolutionary fury destroyed all these things, the gold, the gems, the paintings, the rich hangings and costly carpets the Candlesticks of gold, more precious even from their workmanship than for their material were all swept away. But the sweet flowers which the Almighty) had given still remain the rich possession of the inmates.

6.6.

